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REMARKS

1. Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. With the present response, claims 1, 4, 6, 8 are amended, and claims 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 15-19 and 21 are canceled.

2. In section 2 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 15-17 and 19 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,757,323 to Spencer. Further, in section 7 of the Action, the Examiner states that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has canceled claims 3, 5, 10, 11, 15-17 and 19 thus rendering the rejection of the Examiner as to those claims moot. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3, 5, and 7. Since the Examiner deems claim 7 to be patentable once rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended to be made dependent on claim 1. Therefore, claims 4, 8 and 9 are deemed to be patentable by virtue of their dependency on amended claim 1.

3. In section 3 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 21 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Spencer. The Applicant has canceled claim 21, thus rendering the rejection of the Examiner moot.

4. In section 5 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 6 and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spencer and U.S. Pat. No. 6,137,450 to Bhattacharyya. The Applicant has amended claim 6 and made it dependent on amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 6 is deemed to be patentable by virtue of its dependency on patentable claim 1. With reference to claim 18, such claim has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of the Examiner moot.

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5. In section 6 the Examiner states that claims 12-14 and 20 are allowed. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent Patent and Trademark Office, fax no. (571) 273-8300 on


May 16, 2006
(Date of Transmission)

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05/16/06
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